Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 /111 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI

TO ASDAO PARIS

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 879

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY AAIROBI

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CONFIDENTIAL DJIBOUTI 567

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1 TAGS: PINR, MILI, FR, DJ

SUBJ: TRANSFER FRENCH COMMANDER, GROUND FORCES, DJIBOUTI

1. MAJOR GENERAL ROGER PERIER, COMMANDER OF ALL FRENCH FORCES IN DJIBOUTI, WILL BE LEAVING ON MAY 10 TO TAKE UP HIS NEW COMMANDE AS COMMANDER OF THE FRENCH INTERVENTION DIVISION LOCATED IN BRITAINNY. A VETERAN OF MANY FOREIGN ASSIGNMENTS HIS EXPERIENCE WILL SERVE HIM IN GOOD STEAD IN HIS NEW COMMAND. THE INTERVENTION DIVISION NOW HAS CONTINGENTS IN CHAD AND MAURITANIA AND PROVIDED THE FRENCH EXPEDITIONARY FORCE SUPPORTING THE U.N. FORCES IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. CONFIDENTIAL

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2. GENERAL PERIER HAS BEEN EXTERMELY OPEN AND HELPFUL TO THIS EMBASSY, PROVIDING GENERAL AND TNTEL INFORMATION ABOUT EVENTS IN SURROUNDING AREAS AS WELL AS DJIBOUTI. HE SERVED AT ONE TIME IN GERMANY WITH A UNIT THAT WORKED CLOSELY WITH U.S. ARMY, AND HE BELIEVES STRONGLY IN CLOSE US/FRENCH RELATIONS.

- 3. THE GENERAL SUFFERS FROM AN OLD LEG WOUND AND WOULD HAVE PREFERRED TO HAVE OPERATION BEFORE TAKING UP HIS NEW COMMAND, BUT WILL BE UNABLE TO TAKE TIME BEFORE THIS SIGNIFICANT PROMOTION.
- 4. GENERAL PERIER SPEAKS VIRTUALLY NO ENGLISH.
- 5. HIS REPLACEMENT IS MAJOR GENERAL (FNU) GAREN, NOW BELIEVED TO BE STATIONED WITH A NAVAL INFANTRY UNIT AT BREST. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY AVAILABLE INFO ON GENERAL PERIER'S REPLACEMENT. CLARKE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: GROUND FORCES, MILITARY PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL PROMOTIONS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 20 apr 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978DJIBOU00567
Document Source: CD0

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: X1 Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780173-0543 Format: TEL

From: DJIBOUTI Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780436/aaaabeie.tel

Line Count: 75 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: c56f79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 23 apr 2005 Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a

Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2906839 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: TRANSFER FRENCH COMMANDER, GROUND FORCES, DJIBOUTI

TAGS: PINR, MILI, FR, DJ, (PERIER, ROGER)
To: ASDAO PARIS STATE

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c56f79aa-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

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